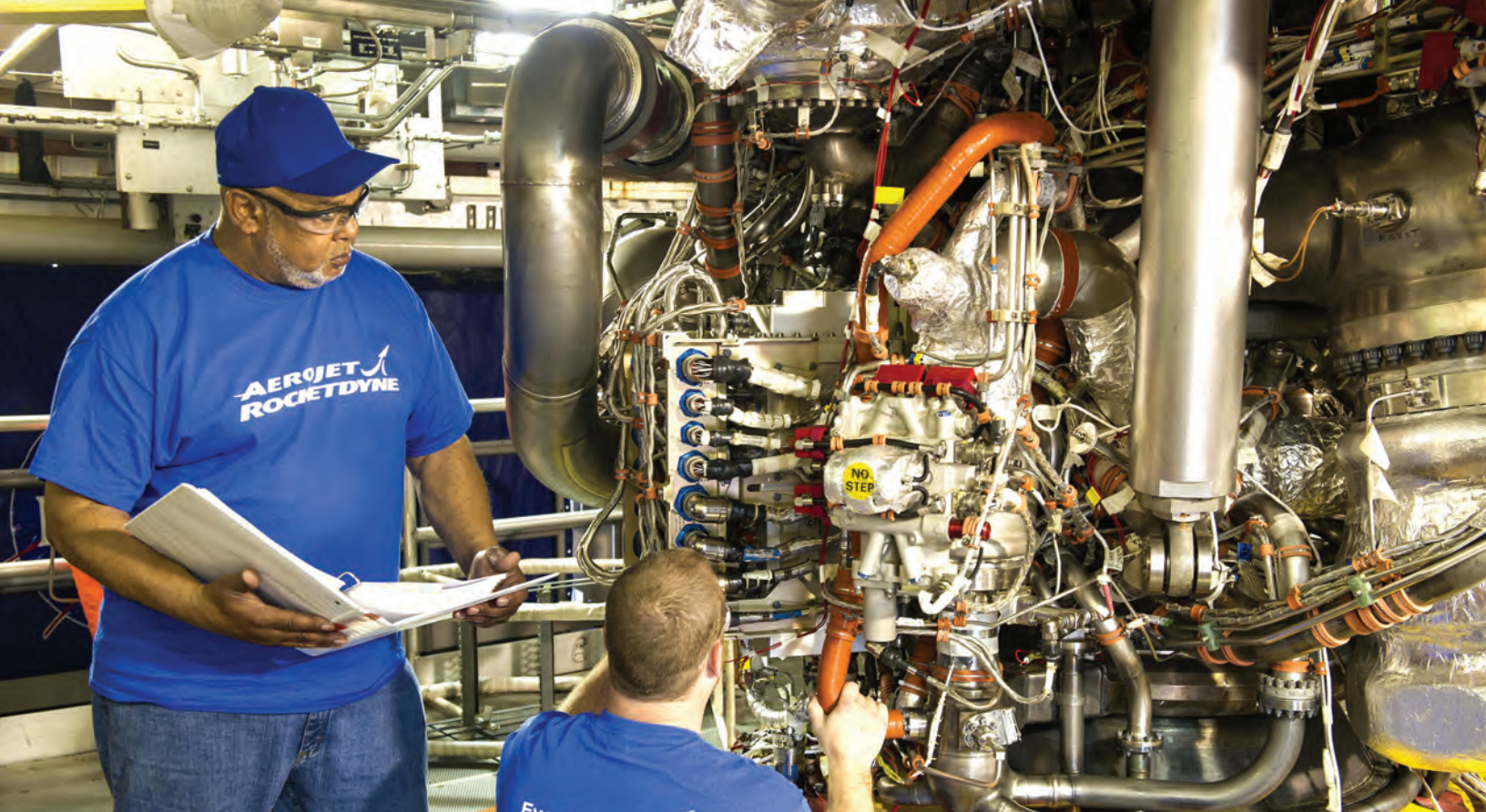




MARCH 2017

SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

SLS ENGINE CONTROLLER GOES FOR A TEST DRIVE



NASA TESTS NEW ENGINE CONTROLLER FOR FIRST SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM FLIGHT

NASA marked a critical milestone March 23 with a test of the first RS-25 engine controller that will be used on the maiden flight of SLS with Orion. The new controller or “brain” has the electronics that operate the engine and communicate with the SLS vehicle. The engine controller unit was installed on RS-25 development engine No. 0528 and test fired for 500 seconds on the A-1 Test Stand at NASA’s Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Once test data is certified, the engine controller will be removed and installed on one of four flight engines that will help power the first integrated flight of SLS and Orion.

Read the full story: bit.ly/2nAO2Qr

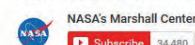
CRITICAL TESTING UNDER WAY FOR UPPER PART OF SLS ROCKET

A rigorous test series has begun for the upper part of SLS to ensure each structure can withstand the incredible stresses of launch. A 65-foot-tall test stand at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, is being used for the test series, where two simulators and four qualification articles of the upper part of the SLS are stacked and being pushed, pulled and twisted by forces similar to those experienced in flight.

Watch the video: bit.ly/2oyVGIK



The Pressure is On for Upper Part of SLS Rocket



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96 2



NASA AT SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST

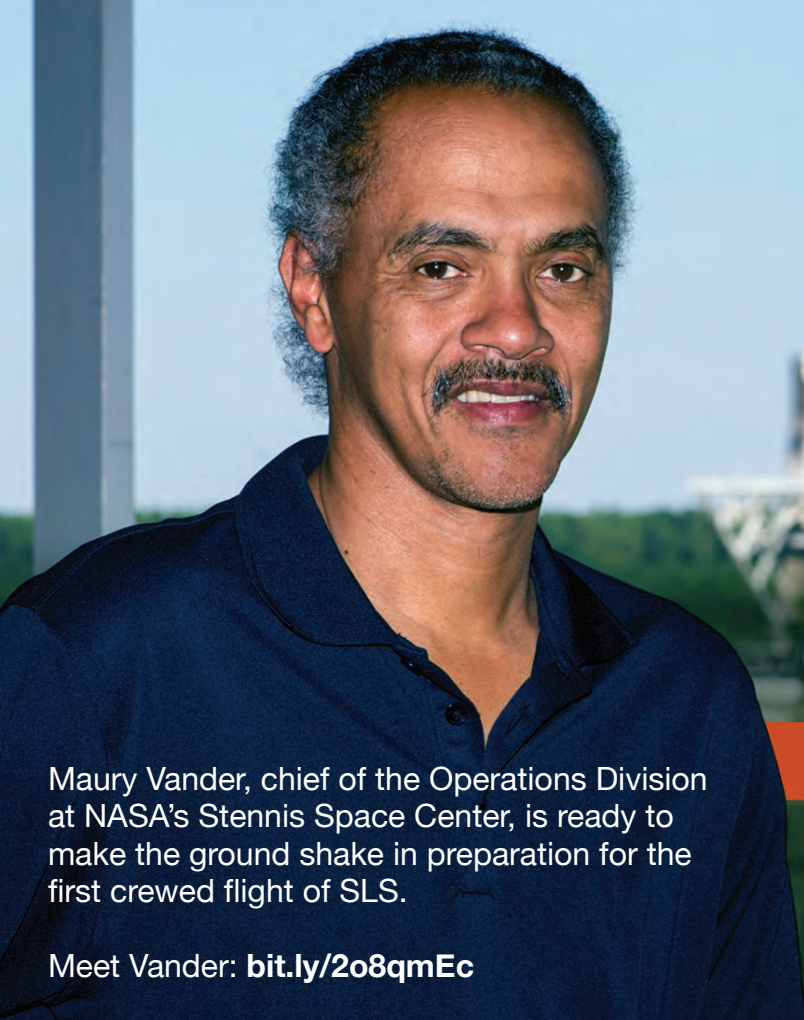
An attendee of the South by Southwest trade show takes a virtual tour of SLS on the launch pad. Approximately 18,000 festival attendees visited the NASA booth during the four-day event.

INTERIM CRYOGENIC PROPULSION STAGE ARRIVES AT CAPE



The interim cryogenic propulsion stage (ICPS) for the first flight of SLS is unloaded at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The ICPS is the first integrated piece of SLS hardware to arrive at the Cape and undergo final processing and testing before being moved to Ground Systems Development & Operations at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The ICPS was designed and built by ULA and The Boeing Co. in Huntsville, Alabama.

More photos on Flickr: [bit.ly/2nvXpiT](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa/15111111111/)



I am
building SLS

Maury Vander, chief of the Operations Division at NASA's Stennis Space Center, is ready to make the ground shake in preparation for the first crewed flight of SLS.

Meet Vander: bit.ly/2o8qmEc

SPACEFLIGHT PARTNERS: *Houston Precision Fasteners*

Houston Precision Fasteners is a small business that manufactures close tolerance, high-strength critical fasteners for use throughout NASA's SLS booster motor. The majority of the fasteners are used on the forward skirt assembly. The company also supplies fastener hardware for NASA's Orion spacecraft, supplying thousands of pieces of precision fastener hardware such as bolts, screws, nuts and washers.





NASA DAY IN MONTGOMERY

SLS took part in “NASA Day in Montgomery,” which recognizes Alabama’s key role in the Journey to Mars. NASA also was honored by the Alabama Legislature with resolutions and proclamations recognizing the agency’s achievements. The annual event featured interactive displays and other exhibits – like the RS-25 engine pictured – aimed at engaging students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

GREETINGS FROM CALIFORNIA



SLS was part of a visit to some of the industry partners in California – including LeFiell Manufacturing – to see the work they are doing on the rocket and Orion, and to thank employees. More than 500 companies across California are helping NASA build SLS and Orion.



While in California, representatives from SLS and Orion, as well as NASA Astronaut Tom Marshburn, also visited with students and staff at Haskell Middle School in Cerritos.

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF NASA’S NEW LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR DEEP SPACE:

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COMING UP:

RS-25 engine testing

Engine section test article transport from Michoud to Marshall

Booster center/aft segment cast